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PLANS TO STUDY REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM ANNOUNCED

(Bel Air, MD - May 8, 2008) - - As a follow up to his announcement earlier this year where he called for a regional water cooperative, County Executive David R. Craig, along with Mayors Michael Bennett of Aberdeen, Rob Preston of Bel Air and Wayne Daugherty of Havre de Grace, today announced they are working together seeking a grant for a study of a regional water and wastewater supply. The study will focus on the benefit to the county and municipalities of establishing a water consortium between the government entities.

The grant request, for \$300,000, will be submitted by the Harford County Department of Public Works to the Office of Economic Adjustment. Funds from the grant will be used to hire a consultant to conduct a six-month study to explore options for implementing a regional system to ensure a reliable, affordable and constant water supply.

Additionally, the study will develop an implementation plan should a regional approach be recommended, as well as an approximate timeline of events, which would need to be accomplished in order to create a regional water cooperative.

Currently, water and sewer are provided by separate systems:

Harford County; Aberdeen, Bel Air, Havre de Grace, the Aberdeen Proving Ground at Aberdeen and APG at Edgewood. Although Harford County's water system has adequate current and future capacity to service its anticipated growth, the Aberdeen system, as well as the two APG systems, does not have the ability to handle projected increased demands due to BRAC. Additionally, the two APG systems and the Bel Air systems are supplied by streams that are subject to extreme low flows during drought conditions.

"The time for action is now," stated County Executive Craig. "We must act to ensure the citizens of Harford County, including the municipalities, have an adequate water supply for years to come," Craig stated.

A water and wastewater consortium is not a new concept. Currently there are two water and wastewater authorities operating within 60 miles of Harford County. The two water authorities are the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission and the Fairfax County Water Authority.

The WSSC operates and maintains four reservoirs; two water filtration plants; six wastewater treatment plants and approximately 5,300 miles of water main lines and 5,200 miles of sewer main lines. The Fairfax County Water Authority is Virginia's largest water utility. Nearly 1.5 million people in the Northern Virginia communities of Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William and Alexandria depend on the Fairfax County Water Authority. The Fairfax Water Authority produces on average, 148 million gallons of water per day.

"We are hopeful our grant request for this study will be approved," stated County Executive Craig. "It is clearly in the best interest of the citizens of Harford County, including the three municipalities and the Aberdeen Proving Ground, that we join together to establish a strong, viable and long lasting water supply to better serve our communities. Water is vital to this county's economic well being and future," Craig remarked.